

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ADDIS 02297 230438Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 EUR-12 NEA-11 ISO-00 CIAE-00
DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05
PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 IO-13 OMB-01 TRSE-00
HA-05 ACDA-12 PC-01 MCT-01 AID-05 /135 W
-----083870 231021Z /17

R 221425Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8473
INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DJIBOUTI
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
USINT HAVANA

C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 2297

NAIROBI FOR MATHERON

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PBOR, PINS, CU, ET, SO, UR, SHUM
SUBJECT: BITS AND PIECES

SUMMARY: GENERALLY RELIABLE SOURCE WITH DIRECT ACCESS TO
CIVILIAN DIRG ADVISERS STATED THAT HEAVY FIGHTING WAS OCCURRING
AROUND ASMARA BUT THAT NO MAJOR OFFENSIVE HAD BEEN LAUNCHED IN
ERITREA. HE SAID THERE HAD BEEN "SOME" URBAN KILLINGS PAST WEEK,
CONTINUING ACTIONS AGAINST MARXIST-LENINIST CIVILIANS AND
INCREASED GUERRILLA ACTIVITY IN OGADEN. RELATIVE EASING OF
CIVILIAN TENSIONS CONTINUES. END SUMMARY.

1. ON ERITREA: SOURCE COULD NOT CONFIRM ERITREAN SECESSIONIST
CLAIMS THAT "MAJOR OFFENSIVE" HAD BEGUN. HE AFFIRMED THAT THERE
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WAS HEAVY FIGHTING BETWEEN GUERRILLAS AND ETHIOPIAN FORCES JUST
WEST OF ASMARA AND WAS AWARE OF EXTENSIVE AIR SORTIES THERE AND
OUTSIDE OF MASSAWA. HOWEVER, HE BELIEVED THERE WAS NO PUSH SOUTH
FROM ASMARA NOR NORTH FROM TIGRE REGION TO REOPEN ROAD, NOR HAD
ETHIOPIAN FORCES ATTEMPTED TO CROSS TEKAZZE RIVER FROM GONDAR
REGION INTO ERITREA. HE STATED THAT TROOP AND EQUIPMENT BUILD-
UP IS CONTINUING IN HUMERA (IN GONDAR REGION ALONG SUDAN BOR-

DER), GONDAR, AND MAKELLE (TIGRE REGIONAL CAPITAL), BUT HE DID NOT FORESEE COORDINATED OPERATION INTO ERITREA OCCURRING IN NEXT MONTH OR LONGER. HE CLAIMED THAT RED TERROR CAMPAIGN WAS CONTINUING VIGOROUSLY IN ASMARA AND THOUGHT IT WAS MORE DIFFICULT TO EX-FILTRATE FROM ERITREA TO SUDAN FOR MOMENT.

2. ON INTERNAL DEVELOPMENTS: SOURCE BELIEVED THAT SOME SHOOTINGS HAD OCCURRED PAST WEEK (MAY 14-21) RESULTING IN 50-60 DEATHS. IT SEEMED TO HIM KILLINGS WERE MUCH MORE SYSTEMATIC THAN BEFORE AND REQUIRED APPROVAL OF "SOMEONE" HIGHER IN CHAIN OF COMMAND. (EMBOFF HAS LEARNED FROM ANOTHER SOURCE THIS "SOMEONE" IS PROBABLY ADDIS ABABA OVERALL REVOLUTIONARY OPERATIONS CENTER COMMANDER LT. COL. DEBELA DINSA.) SOURCE THOUGHT MAJORITY OF KILLINGS WERE OF ALL ETHIOPIAN SOCIALIST MOVEMENT (AESM OR ME'I SONE) MEMBERS UNDER GUISE OF ELIMINATING ETHIOPIAN PEOPLE'S REVOLUTIONARY PARTY (EPRP) IT NOW APPEARS ME'I SONE IS BEING QUIETLY AND DISCREETLY REMOVED FROM CIVILIAN MARXIST-LENINIST COMPETITION.

3. IN THIS REGARD, ONE OF FORMER ME'I SONE LEADERS AND EX-POLITBURO MEMBER NEGEDE GOBEZIE, WHO ENTERED ETHIOPIA SURREPTITIOUSLY IN APRIL, WAS EX-FILTRATED MAY 14 OR 15, REPORTEDLY ACCOMPANIED TO AIRPORT BY CUBAN EMBASSY OFFICIALS. NEGEDE HAD APPARENTLY RETURNED UNDER CUBAN AND YEMENI (PDRY) AEGIS FOR "RECONCILIATION" WITH MENGISTU AND POSSIBLE FORMATION OF LONG-AWAITED WORKERS' PARTY. (THERE ARE SOME REPORTS THAT ETHIOPIA'S

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"FRIENDS," USSR, CUBA, GDR AND PDRY, ARE PRESSING HARD FOR WORKERS' PARTY, BUT THAT DIRG LEADERSHIP IS RESISTING STRONGLY, ARGUING THAT THERE ARE MORE URGENT "MILITARY" MATTERS.) SOURCE HAD SENSE THERE WAS CONSIDERABLE PRESSURE FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF WORKERS' PARTY AND UNCONVINCINGLY HYPOTHESIZED IT COULD BE CREATED IN NEXT MONTH OR TWO.

4. ON MILITARY MATTERS: SOURCE STATED THAT MILITARY ACTIVITY IN OGADEN WAS STILL VERY HIGH. HE ASSERTED THAT SOMALIA WAS RE-INFILTRATING REGULAR TROOPS WEARING WESTERN SOMALI LIBERATION FRONT (WSLF) UNIFORMS AND THAT THEY WERE HEAVILY MINING OGADEN ROADS, ESPECIALLY HARAR TO JIJIGA AND JIJIGA TO KEBRE DEHAR. HE PERSONALLY KNEW OF AT LEAST ONE 8-TRUCK CONVOY WHICH HAD BEEN DESTROYED AND HAD HEARD SUCH INCIDENTS WERE COMMON. HE ESTIMATED GUERRILLA WARFARE WOULD CONTINUE FOR SOME TIME IN OGADEN.

WALKER

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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Drafter: n/a
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Status: NATIVE
Subject: BITS AND PIECES SUMMARY: GENERALLY RELIABLE SOURCE WITH DIRECT ACCESS TO CIVILIAN DIRG ADVISERS STATED THAT HEAVY FIGHTING
TAGS: PBOR, PINS, SHUM, CU, ET, SO, UR, ME I SONE, (NEGEDE GOBEZIE)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/aacd8a99-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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